

BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.
CALIFORNIAN

c. 44,684

Front Page	Edi Page	Other Page
---------------	-------------	---------------

EDITORIALS

Fulbright Does a Job

Sen. J. W. Fulbright has been verbally battered from pillar to post for trying to do a job that needed doing. He stuck to his guns though and now the importance of the work he so doggedly undertook is coming to light.

A New York Times story by Max Frankel cuts through the secrecy which preceded America's intervention in the Dominican Republic and comes up with information that had been withheld from the public.

Frankel says these findings are part of the secret testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Sen. Fulbright is chairman of this committee.

According to Frankel, the national administration guided by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Department, and State Department Latin American Adviser Thomas C. Mann asked for an invitation to intervene in the Dominican Republic.

This invitation was sought and obtained from a military junta in Santo Domingo. Secret intrigue with a civilian group, which didn't have any popular support, preceded these doings.

This is why Fulbright criticized America's intervention. Abuse was his thanks for trying to get the truth across to the public.

Frankel said the administration didn't want to see former president Juan O. Bosch return to Santo Domingo. He also said the administration didn't want to see a rebel victory. In short it was a case of the public-be-damned.

According to Frankel, the U.S. spent millions trying to prop up the civilian regime of President Donald Reid Cabral.

Evidence is building up to show the CIA had too much power in shaping policy. All this fortifies Ohio Sen. Stephen D. Young's contention that the CIA should be cut down to size and stripped of some of its power.

Frankel's story indicates short shrift was given the American people's right to know just what went on in the Dominican Republic. If this business involved an attempt to protect a military regime from a democratic movement, then the truth about it should be dredged up now. Cloak and dagger maneuverings don't sit well in the American democracy. Nor do attempts to keep the whole truth from the people.

Sen. Fulbright deserves this nation's thanks for his courage in the face of criticism. He fought to safeguard the public's right to know what's going on. So did Frankel. He did a job in his profession's finest tradition.